

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 261350Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4059
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: XH, BU, AL, UR
SUBJECT: SIDELIGHTS ON ALBANIAN-BULGARIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (77 SOFIA 2553, PAR 10)
ALBANIAN REBUFF TO BULGARIAN PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE RESIDENT AMBAS-
SADORS. TWO RECENT INCIDENTS FURTHER ILLUMINATE THE STATE OF
ALBANAIN-BULGARIAN, ALBANIAN-SOVIET, AND ALBANIAN-AMERICAN RELA-
TIONS.

2. ALBANIAN CHARGE DID NOT ATTEND THE ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION
HAOSTED BY ZHIVKOV AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COUNCIL. THIS
UNIQUE EXCEPTION IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WE HAVE RECENTLY
LEARNED, WAS SPECIFICALLY EXPLAINED TO THE BULGARIANS BY THE
ALBANIANS AS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR AT THE AFFAIR.

3. AT A RECENT DINNER HOSTED BY PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR,
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DCM ARRIVED TO DISCOVER GUESTS INCLUDED ALBANIAN CHARGE
(A.I.) AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF ALBANIAN EMBASSY. UPON
RECOGNIZING DCM AS AMERICAN, ALBANIAN CHARGE HASTILY
EXCUSED HIMSELF, MOTIONED TO OTHER ALBANIAN TO FOLLOW,
AND ABRUPTLY DEPARTED. (THIS NECESSITATED HOST TO DEPART
THE ROOM, AND SOME RAPID JUGGLING OF TABLE SEATING.)
PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR, WHILE WELL AWARE THAT US AND AL-

BANIA HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, OBVIOUSLY DID NOT
REALIZE EXTREME LENGTHS ALBANIANS (AND NORTH KOREANS)
WILL GO TO HERE TO AVOID EVEN SLIGHTEST SOCIAL CONTACT
WITH US. HE LATER MENTIONED THAT WHEN CALLED AND IN-
VITED, THE ONLY QUESTION ASKED BY THE ALBANIANS HAD BEEN
WHETHER THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WOULD BE THERE, AND UPON
LEARNING THAT NO SOVIETS WOULD BE PRESENT THEY HAD
ACCEPTED.
GARTHOFF

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